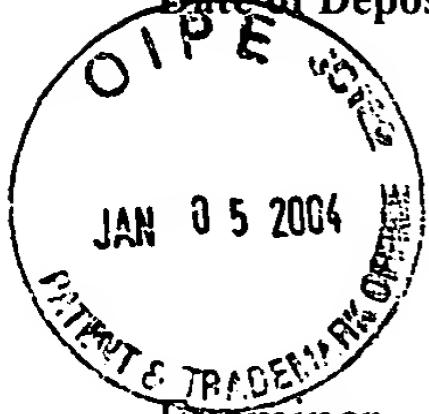


Express Mail Label No.: EV334318578US
Date of Deposit: January 5, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 19313-004 (NS-4)
Expedited Procedure
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Group Art Unit 1647



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Christopher J. Nichols, Ph.D.
Art Unit : 1647
Applicant : Lars Wahlberg et al.
Serial No. : 09/696,530 (Confirmation No.: 4889)
Filed : October 24, 2000
For : CULTURES OF GFAP⁺ NESTIN⁺ CELLS
THAT DIFFERENTIATE TO NEURONS

RECEIVED
JAN 09 2004
TECH CENTER 1000/2900

January 5, 2004
New York, NY

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

This is in response to the November 4, 2003 Final Office Action in the above-identified application. Applicants are filing this response within the shortened statutory period set to expire on February 4, 2004, therefore no additional fees are believed due. Additionally, applicants are filing this response within two months of the issuance of the Final Office Action, that period expiring on January 5, 2004 (January 4, 2004 being a Sunday).

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 19313-004.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and enter the proposed amendments in order to place the application in better condition for Allowance or Appeal:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 8.